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April 10, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

**SUBJECT: GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – LOS ANGELES
YOUTH NETWORK – BEACHWOOD AND TAFT HOUSE GROUP
HOMES**

We have completed a review of Beachwood and Taft House Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Los Angeles Youth Network. Each Group Home contracts with the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation.

Beachwood Group Home is a twelve-bed facility, which provides care for children ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Beachwood Group Home was providing services for eight DCFS children and one Probation child.

Taft House Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for children ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Taft House Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

Beachwood and Taft House Group Homes are located in the Third District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the Beachwood Group Home review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of

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the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Since Taft House Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at the time of our review, the monitoring review was limited to a facility inspection covering basic child safety and licensing issues and a review of the Agency's personnel background checks.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, Beachwood Group Home needs to clean, replace and make several repairs throughout the Group Home. Beachwood Group Home also needs to provide sufficient lighting in bedroom seven and adequate amounts of food. In addition, Taft House Group Home needs to replace the sink and bathtub and repair the kitchen floor.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at 213-253-0301.

WLW:MMO:DC:AA:CC:asl

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
LaGreta McHenry, Board Chair, Los Angeles Youth Network
Liz Gomez, Executive Director, Los Angeles Youth Network
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Los Angeles Youth Network
Beachwood Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90028
License Number: 197603055
Rate Classification Level: 5**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Beachwood Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there is mildew near the tub in the downstairs bathroom and in the shower of the front upstairs bathroom. In the kitchen, the ceiling has water damage and stains, a cabinet door and drawer is missing, the linoleum floor is damaged and there is mildew surrounding the kitchen sink. In the living room, there is a water stain on the ceiling and a broken window near the entrance.

Children's bedrooms have age-appropriate personalized decorations and there is adequate furniture and storage space. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, children's bedrooms are not well maintained. For example, in bedroom one, the room is dirty and the carpet is stained. In bedroom five, the blinds are broken. In bedroom seven, there is insufficient lighting and the carpet is stained. In addition, bedrooms one, two and six have broken dressers, and the ceilings in bedrooms one and five have water damage.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Los Angeles Youth Network management:

- a. Clean and remove the mildew from the downstairs bathroom and the front upstairs bathroom.**
- b. Repair and clean the kitchen ceiling.**

- c. Replace the missing kitchen cabinet doors and drawers.
- d. Repair or replace the linoleum floor in the kitchen.
- e. Clean and remove the mildew from around the kitchen sink.
- f. Repair the ceiling in the living room and remove the water stains.
- g. Repair the window near the entrance.
- h. Repair the ceiling in bedrooms one and five.
- i. Clean bedroom one.
- j. Replace the broken blinds in bedroom five.
- k. Clean or replace the carpet in bedrooms one and seven.
- l. Repair or replace the broken dressers in bedrooms one, two and six.
- m. Provide sufficient lighting in bedroom seven.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home’s population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

None.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home’s program includes the development of children’s daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

None.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. However, children report that there is not always enough food available at meal times for second portions.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

- 2. Los Angeles Youth Network management provide sufficient quantities of food for second portions.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

None.

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size for employee record evaluation: Ten

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.

**Los Angeles Youth Network
Taft House Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90028
License Number: 197603054
Rate Classification Level: 5**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments: Taft House is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the downstairs bathroom, the sink and bathtub finish is peeling and the kitchen linoleum floor tiles are damaged.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Los Angeles Youth Network management:

- a. **Repair or replace the sink and the bathtub in the downstairs bathroom.**
- b. **Repair the kitchen floor.**

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size for employee record evaluation: Ten

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.



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9-23-08

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The following is our proposed Corrective Action Plan in response to the Group Home Evaluation Review results dated 8/25/08 for the Beachwood Group Home.

1) Facility and Environment – Beachwood Group Home

- A. This recommendation has been implemented. The LA Youth Network hired a professional cleaner who removed the mildew from the downstairs bathroom and the front upstairs bathroom before 9/23/08. The facility manager will monitor that both restrooms are ventilated and wiped down of moisture on a weekly basis. The swing staff on shift will monitor that the restrooms are being cleaned on a daily basis to prevent further problems with mildew. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- B. This recommendation was implemented. The repair of the kitchen ceiling was completed by 9/23/08. Maintenance workers repaired, cleaned and painted the ceiling which had been damaged by a water leak. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- C. This recommendation was implemented. The missing kitchen cabinet doors and drawers were replaced by maintenance workers. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- D. This recommendation was implemented. The linoleum floor in the kitchen was replaced before 9/23/08. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.

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- E. This recommendation was implemented. The mildew around the kitchen sink was cleaned and new white caulking was put down before 9/23/08. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- F. This recommendation was implemented. The ceiling in the living room was repaired and water stains removed by 9/23/08. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- G. This recommendation was implemented. The stained glass window near the entrance was replaced by 9/23/08. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- H. This recommendation was implemented. The ceilings in bedrooms one and five have been repaired. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- I. This recommendation was implemented. Bedroom one was cleaned. The facility manager will monitor and report any future damage. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.
- J. This recommendation has not been implemented. The blinds in room number 5 will be replaced by 11/23/08. The residential program director will ensure they're replaced and the facility manager will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure the recommendation remains implemented.
- K. This recommendation has not been implemented. The bedroom carpet in rooms one and seven will be cleaned and/or replaced by 11/23/08. The residential program director will notify the Associate Executive Director of the immediate need for carpet cleaning or replacement and the residential program director will ensure compliance. The facility manager will be the



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quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure the recommendation remains implemented.

- L. This recommendation has not been implemented. Bedrooms one, two and six will receive new dressers by 11/23/08. The residential program director will notify the Associate Executive Director of the immediate need for carpet cleaning or replacement and the residential program director will ensure compliance. The facility manager will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure the recommendation remains implemented.
- M. This recommendation was implemented. The light bulb in room number seven was replaced allowing for sufficient lighting by 9/23/08. The facility manager will monitor and report any future insufficient lighting. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.

2) Personal Rights – Beachwood Group Home

2. This recommendation has been implemented. The residential program director reported the need for sufficient quantities of food for second portions to the associate executive director. The food budget was increased implementing this recommendation. The facility manager will monitor and report any insufficient quantities of food for second portions. The residential program director will be the quality assurance person who will monitor to make sure recommendation remains implemented.

The following is our proposed Corrective Action Plan in response to the Group Home Evaluation Review results dated 8/25/08 for the Taft Home.

I. Facility and Environment – Taft House

- A. This recommendation has not been implemented. The residential program director reported the repairing of the sink and bathtub in the downstairs bathroom to the correct department overseen by the shelter program director. After repairs are completed at the Beachwood Group home the repairing of the sink and bathtub will be completed, no later than 11/23/08. The residential program director will ensure the



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recommendation is implemented and will be the quality assurance person responsible that it remains implemented.

- B. This recommendation has not been implemented. The residential program director reported the repairing of the kitchen floor to the correct department overseen by the shelter program director. After repairs are completed at the Beachwood Group home the repairing of the kitchen floor will be completed, no later than 11/23/08. The residential program director will ensure the recommendation is implemented and will be the quality assurance person responsible that it remains implemented.

The residential program director will ensure compliance of the overall CAP.

Sincerely,

Katie Andrews, BSW
Los Angeles Youth Network
Residential Program Director
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Reviewed by:

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